



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

December 18, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
and Government Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
and Government Affairs  
442 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member McCaskill:

We write in support of H.R. 4042, a bill to rename the post office located at 1415 West Oak Street, in Kissimmee, Florida, as the "Borinqueneers Post Office Building." This legislation passed the U.S. House of Representatives on December 14, 2017, and is awaiting Senate consideration.

In 1898, Congress authorized the creation of the regiment of native troops in Puerto Rico. The Regiment distinguished itself over the course of multiple wars. During World War II, the Regiment fought valiantly in Europe, with many receiving the Purple Heart posthumously for their bravery and heroism. In Korea, the unit—by now known as the "Borinqueneers" after the original Taíno name of the island—earned the Navy Unit Commendation after covering the retreat of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. General Douglas MacArthur paid tribute to the unit, writing:

The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry give daily proof on the battlefields of Korea of their courage, determination and resolute will to victory...They are writing a brilliant record of heroism in battle and I am indeed proud to have them under my command. I wish we could count on many more like them.

In 2014, the Borinqueneers received the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Renaming this post office is another fitting tribute to those that gave so much on the battlefield. We respectfully request that this bill be reported out of committee as soon as possible.

Senator Bill Nelson

Sincerely,

Senator Marco Rubio